

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-21 are rejected.

Claims 1-2, 10-12, 14-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 3-9, 13, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2 and 17-19 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10-16, 20, and 21 are currently amended.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-16, and 20-21 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-2, 10-12, 14-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiroshi, et al., hereinafter "Hiroshi" (J.P. 10-256105).

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which has been cancelled.

Claim 1 now recites a convex edge surface that is asymmetric with respect to the upper and lower side surfaces.

Hiroshi does not show or teach this feature of the claimed invention, e.g., asymmetric limitation. All the figures of Hiroshi indicate that the chamfered part 2 is symmetrical. See, for example, FIG. 1 of Hiroshi. The Examiner actually acknowledges this fact in the rejection of claim 12 where the Examiner notes that "Hiroshi, et al. disclose that a cross-section of said curved edge surface is symmetric..." Thus, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for this claim.

Claim 10 is amended to further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. Claim 10 now recites a lower side surface that has a wide region and a narrow region in a plan view of the bottom surface. Claim 10 also recites that the wide region is wider than the upper side surface. Support for this amendment can be found, among other locations, in the Specification, page 5, lines 1-3, and FIG. 5A.

Hiroshi does not show or teach a wide region and a narrow region on the bottom surface. Hiroshi's wafer, looking at the bottom surface in a plan view, would only show a circle with a concentric bevel along the entire circumference. This configuration teaches

away from having a wide and a narrow region on a lower side surface. In addition, the Examiner points out, in the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections in the pending Office Action, that Hiroshi fails to show a lower side surface having a wide region and a narrow region. Thus, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for this claim.

Claim 11 is amended to recite a convex edge surface that is asymmetric with respect to the upper and the lower side surfaces.

But Hiroshi, as explained above regarding claim 1, teaches a chamfered wafer edge that is symmetrical. Thus, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for these claims.

Claims 15, 16, and 20, and claims 12 and 14 depend respectively from claims 10 and 11 and inherently include all of the limitations of their respective base claim. As discussed above, the prior art does not teach the limitations of the base claim much less the further embodiments of the dependent claims. Therefore, claims 12, 14, 15, 16, and 20 are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Allowance of these claims is requested.

Claims 2, 17, and 18 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3-9, 13, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshi, et al. (J.P. 10-256105) in view of Jibadei, et al., hereinafter "Jibadei" (K.P. 000057827).

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 3 is amended to recite a lower side surface having a wide region and a narrow region in a plan view of the bottom surface.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Hiroshi fails to show a lower side surface having a wide region and a narrow region. But Jibadei also fails to show this.

Jibadei shows, in FIGS. 3a and 4, cross sections of a wafer edge, but none of these figures show a lower side surface having a wide region and a narrow region, as in a plan view. For example, FIG. 5A of the application shows a lower side surface 124 with a wide region 160 and a narrow region 150. Jibadei does not show or teach this in his figures or his text. Thus, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for this claim.

Moreover, claims 3-9 depend upon claim 1, claim 13 depends upon claim 11, and claims 19 and 21 depend upon claim 10. These dependent claims depend upon their respective base claim and inherently include all of the limitations of that base claim. As discussed above, the prior art, independently or in combination, does not teach the limitations of the base claim much less the further embodiments of the dependent claims. Therefore,

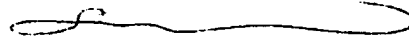
claims 3-9, 13, 19 and 21 are allowable for their dependency and their own merits.
Allowance of these claims is requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-16, and 20-21 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

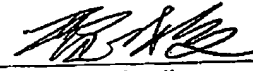
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